

Docket: 445440

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The current status of claims 1-32 is as follows:

- 1.-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower blade assembly comprising:
a shaft configured to be in rotatable communication with a motor;
a stub in communication with said shaft;
a blade; and,
a receiver coupled to said blade, said receiver including a receiving portion and at least a plurality of flexible members configured for moving between outward and inward positions for engaging and retaining said stub in said receiving portion in a releasable engagement, said flexible members including, engaging portions for moving between said inward and outward positions, and platforms, said platforms ends, said ends in communication with said engaging portions, said engaging portions and said platforms disposed at opposite ends of said flexible members, and said ends platforms configured such that downward pressure on said ~~ends~~ platforms moves said engaging portions to said outward positions, allowing for at least the disengagement of said blade from said stub.
10. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said shaft, stub, blade and receiver are configured to be in coaxial alignment, such that said blade is balanced upon rotation.
11. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 10, wherein said stub includes an outer surface and said receiving portion includes an inner surface, said outer and said inner surfaces correspondingly configured with respect to each other for allowing a sufficient but minimal amount of rotational play for said blade.
12. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower blade comprising:
a blade body, said blade body including oppositely disposed cutting portions and a platform intermediate said oppositely disposed cutting portions; and,

2 of 10

Response to Office Action Mailed January 18, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/531,735

CC 1702068v1

Docket: 445440

a receiver, said receiver coupled to said platform in a substantially coaxial alignment, said receiver including flexible members for moving between outward and inward positions for retaining at least a portion of a rotatable member in communication with a motor in a releasable engagement at least partially within said receiver, said flexible members including first portions configured for moving between said outward and inward positions and second portions, in communication with said first portions, said first portions and said second portions disposed at opposite ends of said flexible members, said second portions configured such that ~~downward~~ pressure thereon on said second portions moves said first portions to said outward positions, said receiver configured for receiving and retaining at least a portion of the rotatable member in a substantially coaxial alignment therewith, such that said lawnmower blade is balanced upon rotation.

13. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 12, wherein said first portions of said flexible members include bodies configured for spring-like behavior.

14. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 12, wherein said receiver includes a receiving portion for receiving at least a portion of a rotatable member.

15. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 14, wherein said receiving portion includes an inner surface that is configured to receive at least a portion of a rotatable member in a manner to allow a sufficient but minimal amount of rotational play for said blade.

16. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower blade comprising:
a blade body, said blade body including oppositely disposed cutting portions and a platform intermediate said oppositely disposed cutting portions; and,
a receiver, said receiver coupled to said platform in a substantially coaxial alignment, said receiver including a receiving portion for receiving at least a portion of a rotatable member, and flexible members for moving between outward and inward positions, for retaining at least a portion of said rotatable member in a releasable engagement at least partially within said receiving portion, said flexible members including first portions configured for moving between said outward and inward positions and second portions, said second portions in communication with said

3 of 10

Response to Office Action Mailed January 18, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/531,735

CC 1702068v1

Docket: 445440

first portions, said first portions and said second portions disposed at opposite ends of said flexible members, said second portions configured such that ~~downward pressure thereon~~ on said second portions moves said first portions to said outward positions, said receiving portion configured for receiving and retaining at least a portion of the rotatable member in a substantially coaxial alignment therewith, such that said lawnmower blade is balanced upon rotation.

17. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 16, wherein said first portions of said flexible members include bodies configured for spring-like behavior.

18. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 17, wherein the receiving portion includes an inner surface that is configured to receive at least a portion of a rotatable member in a manner to allow a sufficient but minimal amount of rotational play for said blade.

19. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower blade comprising:
a blade body, said blade body including oppositely disposed cutting portions and a platform intermediate said oppositely disposed cutting portions;
a receiver, said receiver coupled to said platform in a substantially coaxial alignment, said receiver including at least two flexible members, each of said flexible members configured for moving between outward and inward positions for retaining at least a portion of a rotatable member in communication with a motor in a releasable engagement at least partially within said receiver, each of said flexible members including oppositely disposed first and second ends, said first ends including first portions configured for moving between said outward and inward positions, and said second ends including second portions, said second portions discontinuous with and in communication with said first portions, said second portions configured such that pressure ~~thereon~~ on said second portions moves said first portions to said outward positions; and,
said receiver is configured for receiving and retaining at least a portion of said rotatable member in a substantially coaxial alignment therewith, such that said lawnmower blade is balanced upon rotation.

Docket: 445440

20. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 19, wherein said first portions of said flexible members include bodies configured for spring-like behavior.
21. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 19, wherein said receiver includes a receiving portion for receiving at least a portion of a rotatable member.
22. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 21, wherein the receiving portion includes an inner surface that is configured to receive at least a portion of a rotatable member in a manner to allow a sufficient but minimal amount of rotational play for said blade.
23. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower blade comprising:
a blade body, said blade body including oppositely disposed cutting portions and a platform intermediate said oppositely disposed cutting portions; and,
a receiver, said receiver coupled to said platform in a substantially coaxial alignment, said receiver including:
a receiving portion for receiving at least a portion of a rotatable member, said receiving portion positioned on said platform to maintain said blade body in a substantially coaxial alignment with a rotatable member; and,
at least two flexible members, separate from said receiving portion, each of said flexible members configured for moving between outward and inward positions for retaining at least a portion of said rotatable member in communication with a motor in a releasable engagement at least partially within said receiving portion, each of said flexible members including oppositely disposed first and second ends, said first ends including first portions configured for moving between said outward and inward positions, and said second ends including second portions, said second portions in communication with said first portions, said second portions configured such that pressure thereon moves said first portions to said outward positions.
24. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 23, wherein said first portions of said flexible members include bodies configured for spring-like behavior.

Docket: 445440

25. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 23, wherein said receiving portion includes a tubular segment for receiving a correspondingly shaped portion of said rotatable member.

26. (Previously Presented) The lawnmower blade of claim 25, wherein said tubular segment includes an inner surface with protrusions along said inner surface, said protrusions for receiving a correspondingly configured surface of at least a portion of said rotatable member in a locking engagement.

27. (New) A lawnmower blade assembly comprising:

a blade;

a receiver coupled to the blade, the receiver configured for receiving a rotatable member for rotating the blade; and,

a plurality of holding members, separate from the receiver, each holding member including a flange for engaging a portion of the rotatable member when the rotatable member is received in the receiver and holding the rotatable member at least partially within the receiver at holding forces such that when the blade is rotating, the holding forces are greater than the rotational forces on the blade.

28. (New) The lawnmower blade assembly of claim 27, wherein the receiver includes a cup-like element.

29. (New) The lawnmower blade assembly of claim 28, wherein the holding members are moveable between a first position, where the flanges extend over the periphery of the cup-like element, and a second position, where the flanges extend beyond the periphery of the cup-like element, such that when in this second position, the lawnmower blade assembly is removable from a rotatable member.

30. (New) The lawnmower blade assembly of claim 28, wherein the inner surface of the cup-like element includes ridges and grooves for retaining a correspondingly configured rotatable member.

31. (New) The lawnmower blade assembly of claim 29, wherein the holding members are flexible, and the flanges define first portions at first ends of each the holding

6 of 10

Response to Office Action Mailed January 18, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/531,735

CC 1702068v1

Docket: 445440

member, and, the holding members additionally include, second portions at second ends of the respective holding member, the second portions in communication with the first portions of each holding member, and, the second portions such that when pressure is applied to the second portions, the first portions move from the first position to the second position.

32. (New) The lawnmower blade assembly of claim 31, wherein the holding members include a resilient material.